

## IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[[The]] A heald frame including , ~~which is obtained by assembling two vertical struts (21) with and two horizontal cross-bars [(22)] each of which is provided with a heald-carrier rod (29), comprises at least one hoop (40) surrounding a~~ and tubular end portions extremity (28) of said cross-bar (22) in an area in which it is joined to the in which a projection from an adjacent strut is received and secured by (21) and an area in which at least one locking member. (25, 26) of part (21a) of said strut is received. The area of junction is created in part (35) of the extremity (28) provided with an external transverse profile which is essentially convex. The hoop is provided A reinforcing hoop surrounds each end portion in order to resist a locking effort (F3, F'3) exerted by the at least one locking member (23, 24) .

It would be appreciated if the Examiner would indicate the acceptance of this amendment in the next office communication. No new matter is being added.